GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5823
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2000
INDO-GERMAN TIES
A. VENKATESH NAIK;DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Germany held dialogue on bilateral and multilateral issues recently;

(b) if so, the issues discussed; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) Yes Sir. Mr. Wolfgang Ischinger, the German State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, visited India on 12 April, 2000 for annual Foreign Office Consultations and to initiate a Strategic Dialogue between the two countries.

(b) & (c) The discussions between Mr. Ischinger and Foreign Secretary in the Foreign Office Consultations allowed for a review of bilateral political, economic, defence and cultural relations. They have also contributed to the preparations for the visit of the German Foreign Minister which is scheduled for mid-May 2000.

The discussions held in the Strategic Dialogue covered issues relating to global and regional security and stability, disarmament and non-proliferation, international terrorism, world economy and trade and the reform of the United Nations. The discussions have contributed to a closer understanding on these issues of mutual concern to the countries. The German side have also indicated that it is self-evident that India is a primary candidate for UNSC permanent membership.It was agreed that the Strategic Dialogue will take place bi-annually, alternately in the two countries.